

Amendments to the claims:

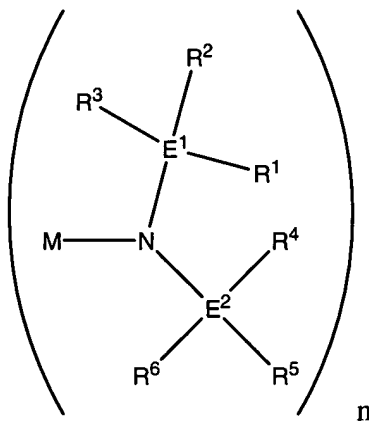
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The composition of claim 13, for use in the formation of
~~alkali metal containing materials, comprising:~~

~~a compound of an alkali metal and an amide ligand, said compound being a liquid at a~~
temperature of 20°C.

2. (Currently amended) The composition as in claim 1, wherein the liquid alkali
metal amide has the formula



where M is an alkali metal; E¹ and E² may be the same or different and are tetravalent atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium or tin, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may be the same or different ~~represent~~ and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, fluoroalkyl groups or alkyl groups substituted by other atoms or groups, wherein at least one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ contains more than one carbon atom, and wherein one or more carbons may be replaced by an isoelectronic species, and n is a number equal to or greater than one.

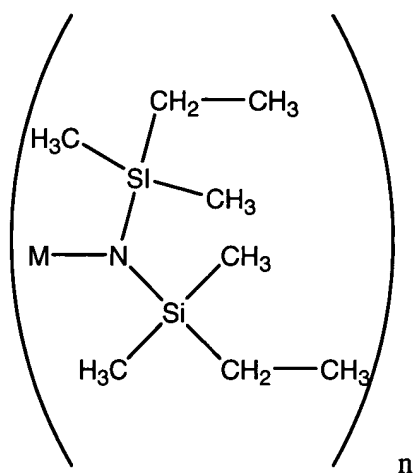
3. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the groups R¹ and R⁴ contain between two and eight carbons and may be the same or different.

4. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2 or 3, wherein the groups R², R³, R⁵ and R⁶ contain less than three carbons and may be the same or different.

5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the E1 and E2 are selected from the group consisting of carbon and silicon and may be the same or different.

6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the amide ligand is formed from an amine selected from the group consisting of bis(n-octyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-hexyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(isobutyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(iso-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(isopropyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(trimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, and tert-amyl-tert-butylamine.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, therein the alkali metal amide has the formula,



8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

9. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is sodium.

10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is potassium.

11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2 or 7, wherein n is in the range of 2 to 3.

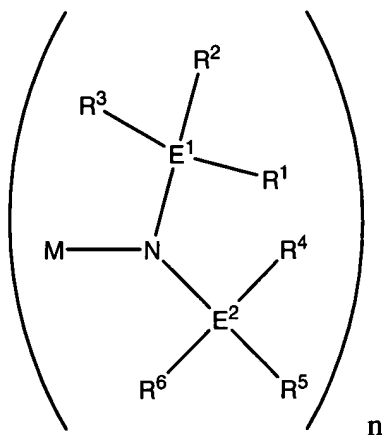
12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the liquid has a viscosity at 40°C in the range of about 200-1000 cP.

13. (Previously presented) A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials, comprising:

a compound of an alkali metal and an amide ligand, said compound being a liquid at a temperature of less than about 70°C.

14. (Currently amended) A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials, comprising:

a solution of an alkali metal amide having the formula



where M is an alkali metal; E¹ and E² may be the same or different and are tetravalent atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium or tin, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may be the same or different ~~represent~~ and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, fluoroalkyl groups or alkyl groups substituted by other atoms or groups, wherein at least one of ~~R₁~~ R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and ~~R₆~~ R⁶ contains more than one carbon atom, and wherein one or more carbons may be replaced by an isoelectronic species, and n is a number equal to or greater than one.

15. (Previously presented) A composition as in claim 14, wherein the solution can be flash vaporized and used in a chemical vapor deposition process.

16. (Withdrawn) A process for forming a material containing an alkali metal, comprising:

providing a liquid compound of an amine and an alkali metal, and

contacting a surface with the liquid or its vapor in a deposition process to deposit a material containing an alkali metal.

17. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16 in which the deposited material comprises one or more metal oxides.

18. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16 in which the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium and potassium.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16 in which the deposited material also contains metals that are not alkali metals.

20. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16, wherein the deposition process is a chemical vapor deposition process.

21. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16, wherein the deposition process is a sol-gel process.

22. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16, wherein the deposition process is a spray-coating or spin-coating process.

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, Group II (claim 13) for prosecution, directed to a composition comprising a compound of an alkali metal and an amide ligand, said compound is a liquid at a temperature of less than 70°C.

TRAVERSE

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed with respect to the inventions of Groups I, II and III.

The invention of groups I and II differ in that the compounds containing an alkali metal and amide ligand are liquids at a temperature of 20°C and at a temperature of less than 70°C, respectively. The restriction of inventions between groups is improper “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden.” Under these circumstances, “the examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions” MPEP 803. Clearly, a search of compounds that are liquid at about 20°C will also identify those compounds that are a liquid at a temperature of less than 70°C. To further emphasize this point, claim 1 has been rewritten to depend from claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction between groups I and II should be withdrawn.

Similarly, the restriction between Groups I and III should be withdrawn. Compounds falling under the scope of the invention of Group II are disclosed in the specification to be liquid at temperatures ranging from less than 20°C to 70°C. Clearly, it would impose no additional burden to search these compounds.

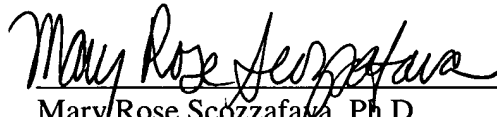
In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction between the inventions of groups I, II and III be withdrawn and that claims 1-15 be examined together.

Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account
No. 08-0219.

If there are any questions, please call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated
below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 4, 2004



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